

**632 Khyber Lane  
Venice, FL 34293**

January 27, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

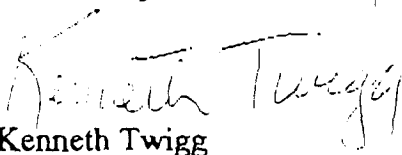
Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

The nine plaintiff states in the Microsoft antitrust case who are seeking to overturn the settlement reached last November are claiming to act in the best interest of the public. They are mistaken. I do not understand the intricacies of the Microsoft antitrust case, but I do know that extended litigation would be anything but beneficial to the consumer. I do not believe it is necessary to continue litigation at this point. Extended suit can only result in wasted time and money.

The settlement is reasonable. Microsoft will be allowed to remain intact, and it will also retain control over its software, but it will be required to give its competitors access to various parts of Microsoft technology and to refrain from monopolistic actions. For example, Microsoft will not be permitted to enter into any contracts that would require a third party to distribute Microsoft software either exclusively or at a fixed percentage.

It is wrong for States to attack Microsoft under the guise of protecting the consumer. Consumers benefited from Microsoft's developments & marketing. Allowing these nine states to cause the existing ruling to be overturned will only result in expensive litigation, which is contrary to the best interest of consumers.

Thank for your consideration.

  
Kenneth Twigg